

Meeting Date: May 22, 2008

Agenda Item No. 9

Agenda Item: Wolf Hunting Season Rules

Approved by: _____

Prepared by: Steve Nadeau

Background:

Wolves were delisted on March 28, 2008. The state of Idaho has been managing wolves as a big game animal under policies and procedures outlined in the 2002 Wolf Conservation and Management Plan and the recently adopted 2008 Wolf Population Management Plan, as well as under the new livestock conflict law IC 36-1107. Hunting rules under the Population Plan were developed and presented to the public for comment.

Policy Issues:

The wolf hunting rules, season length, non-biological rules and quotas will all need to be adopted in order to proceed with a hunting season this fall.

Public Involvement Process:

The rules were posted on the website on May 1, and public open houses were held in all regions.

Justification:

The Wolf Population Management Plan calls for maintaining viable wolf populations at or near current levels of 500-700 wolves. The proposed rules provide a harvest and reported mortality quota that, along with estimated unreported mortality, will establish an end-of-season population between 550 and 600 wolves. The plan also calls for reducing populations where livestock and ungulate conflicts are moderate to high. The proposed rules address these objectives while approaching wolf harvest in Idaho under a moderate and balanced framework.

Action Requested:

Adopt wolf hunting season rules.

Staff Recommendations:

Adopt rules as recommended.